

## Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 OPR-01 NIC-01 AGR-05

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /095 W

----- 011776

O P 041427Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3479

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 2584

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: ADOWA DAY, LAND REFORM AND NEW EPMG APPOINTMENTS:  
THE MOOD IN ADDIS

REFS: (A) ADDIS 2364; (B) ADDIS 2524; (C) ADDIS #

1. A VERY TENSE ADDIS ABABA WAITED WITH BATED BREATH BEGINNING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 (THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE AKLILU HABTE WOLDE GOVERNMENT WHICH CAN BE SAID TO HAVE MARKED THE BEGINNING OF ETHIOPIA'S CURRENT REVOLUTION) FOR THE LONG ANTICIPATED, FATEFUL LAND REFORM ANNOUNCEMENT. THE WEEKEND WENT OFF QUIETLY, HOWEVER, INCLUDING THE CUSTOMARY CEREMONIES OF ADOWA  
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DAY ON MARCH 2. THAT DAY, OF COURSE, WAS GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE

CONTEMPORARY COLORATION IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND ON THE SIGNS OF MARCHING DEMONSTRATORS WHO PROCLAIMED THEIR FEALTY TO ETHIOPIAN UNITY AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE ANY SACRIFICE TO CRUSH ITS ENEMIES. WREATH-LAYING AND MEDIUM TO SMALL SIZE DEMONSTRATIONS ASIDE, HOWEVER, THE CITY WAS CALM.

2. TENSION PERSISTED THROUGH MARCH 3 AND GREW IN ACUITY TOWARDS THE END OF MONDAY, WHEN ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF THE IMMINENT PROCLAMATION OF LAND REFORM BEGAN TO REACH DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER OBSERVERS. STILL THE CITY REMAINED CALM AND ORDERLY.

3. THE RURAL LAND NATIONALIZATION PROCLAMATION WAS READ OVER RADIO ETHIOPIA IN AMHARIC (AND IN ETHIOPIA'S OTHER MAJOR LANGUAGES) THIS MORNING, MARCH 4. IT IMMEDIATELY BECAME THE SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION THROUGHOUT THE CITY. PEOPLE FLOCKED TO BARS AND OTHER PLACES WHERE RADIOS WERE AVAILABLE TO LISTEN TO THE LENGTHY READINGS ACCOMPANIED BY MARTIAL MUSIC. PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN TOWN REMAINED ROUGHLY ONE-THIRD BELOW NORMAL. THE RADIO SOON ALSO CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT THE PMAC HAD AUTHORIZED ORDERLY DEMONSTRATIONS IN ADDIS ABABA AND CERTAIN OTHER URBAN CENTERS FOR TOMORROW, MARCH 5, IN SUPPORT OF THE LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION, BUT DEMONSTRATIONS BEGAN TO FORM BY MID-AFTERNOON TODAY (MARCH 4) AND SEVERAL OF THEM ARE IN COURSE AT THIS WRITING (1600 HOURS LOCAL). THE DEMONSTRATORS THUS FAR APPEAR TO BE WELL-BEHAVED. SOME ARE CARRYING RED FLAGS WITH HAMMERS AND SICKLES; OTHERS ARE CARRYING GREEN BRANCHES AND POSTERS WITH SUCH SENTIMENTS AS "DOWN WITH THE PETTY BOURGEOISIE"; "ARMS TO THE PEASANTS"; AND "BREAK THE BACKBONE OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM"; "RELEASE THE PROGRESSIVES"; "TILLER REJOICE, IT IS YOUR DAY"; AND DRAWINGS DEPICTING THE TOMBS OF LANDLORDS.

4. THUS FAR, WE HAVE NOT HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO SAMPLE OPINION ON EITHER LAND NATIONALIZATION OR THE JUST-ANNOUNCED NEW MINISTERIAL AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS. HOWEVER, THE FEW CONVERSATIONS WHICH EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE THUS FAR HAD SUGGEST THAT THE INITIAL ADDIS RESPONSE AT LEAST MAY TURN OUT TO BE ON THE WHOLE APPROVING OF WHAT HAS THUS FAR BEEN SAID AND PLANNED. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF PREPARATIONS FOR ADVERSE REACTIONS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE; ALLEGED ISOLATED ATTACKS UPON CAMPAIGNERS (ZAMETCHOCH); THE DEFECTION OF CERTAIN GALLA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUNCTIONARIES, INCLUDING STAFF MEMBERS OF THE "DIRG"; THE EXODUS OF INDIVIDUALS ALLEGEDLY GOING TO STAKE THEIR LAND CLAIMS OR TO DEFEND THEIR PROPERTY; IT REMAINS STILL FAR TOO EARLY TO EVALUATE THE ACCURACY AND SIGNIFICANCE, LET ALONE THE EVENTUAL IMPACT, OF THESE REPORTS.  
WYMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #REF (C) AS RECEIVED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LAND REFORMS, RADIO BROADCASTING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 04 MAR 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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